

Agency: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Announcement Title: Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants (AWPPGs)

Announcement Type: Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY 2005 Announcement

Number: AWPPG 2005-1

Due Date for Proposals: February 16, 2005

SUMMARY: Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants (AWPPGs) provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. These grants will be awarded under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 66.480, which can be found at <http://www.cfda.gov/>.

The goals of this program include supporting a watershed approach to better address water quality problems in the U.S. and building the capacity of all levels of government to develop and implement effective, comprehensive programs for watershed protection, restoration, and management. These are tied into goals two and four (clean and safe water) of the EPA Strategic Plan (<http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>), which includes restoring and maintaining watersheds and their aquatic ecosystems and oceans in order to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife. States and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, territories and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, interstate associations or intertribal consortia, public or private nonprofit, nongovernmental institutions and individuals are eligible to apply. This RFP describes the grant selection and award process for eligible applicants interested in applying for FY 2005 AWPPGs.

DATE: This RFP was released on January 3, 2005. The deadline for EPA receipt of proposals in electronic form is 11:59 p.m. on February 16, 2005. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: The proposals must be submitted in their entirety, but no more than six pages, in electronic form to awppg@epa.gov. All subject headings of the email submissions must state the program of application (Watershed or Nonpoint Source).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information regarding this RFP, please see Section VII.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. The Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants

The AWPPGs provide eligible applicants an opportunity to carry out projects to develop and implement effective, comprehensive programs for watershed protection, restoration, and management. The projects that eligible applicants can undertake are diverse. In the past, award recipients have pursued a wide range of activities, such as developing management tools, advancing scientific and technical tools for protecting watershed health, improving availability of data and information about watersheds, and training watershed managers and the public about watershed management.

The statutory authority for AWPPGs is Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 104(b)(3) of the CWA restricts the use of these grants to the following: conducting or promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. These grants may not be used solely for the operational support of specific watershed projects, for example, support for the implementation of individual watershed projects or the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for specific water bodies or for in-depth monitoring (beyond traditional volunteer monitoring programs) for individual water bodies. All projects funded through this program must contribute to the overall development and improvement of watershed programs. This RFP describes the grant selection and award process for eligible applicants.

B. AWPPG Goals for 2005

The goals of the AWPPGs include supporting a watershed approach to better address water quality problems in the U.S. and building the capacity of all levels of government to develop and implement effective, comprehensive programs for watershed protection, restoration, and management. The program areas central to achieving this goal are described in Section V.

II. Award Information

A. Authority

The general award and administration process for AWPPGs are governed by regulations at 40 CFR part 30 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 (States, Tribes, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia and local governments).

All costs incurred under this program must be allowable under the applicable OMB Cost Circulars: A-87 (States and local governments), A-122 (nonprofit organizations), or A-21 (universities). Copies of these circulars can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>. In accordance with EPA policy and the OMB circulars, as appropriate, any recipient of funding must agree not to use assistance funds for lobbying, fund-raising, or political activities (for example, lobbying members of Congress or lobbying for other Federal grants, cooperative agreements or contracts).

B. Eligible Activities

CWA Section 104(b)(3) authorizes the Agency to award grants to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. Grant funds awarded as part of the AWPPGs may only be used for these activities and all grant-funded activities must support the workplan submitted.

These activities seek to advance the state of knowledge, gather information, or transfer information. Demonstrations are projects that exhibit new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches and disseminate the results so that others can

benefit from the knowledge gained. Research projects may include the application of established practices when they contribute to learning about an environmental concept or problem. If data is collected, the project must adhere to QA/QA procedures and EPA's environmental data standards (<http://www.epa.gov/edsc>). Also if data is collected, the data must be entered into the EPA STORET database.

C. Funding Availability

EPA expects approximately \$1,100,000 available in FY 2005. EPA anticipates that typical grant awards for the selected projects will in most cases range from \$5,000 to \$80,000 depending on the amount requested and the overall size and need of the project. EPA reserves the right to not make any awards.

D. Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The AWPPGs fund both grants and cooperative agreements; however, most awards in the past have been made as cooperative agreements.

E. Multi-Year Project Periods

EPA normally funds grants and cooperative agreements on a 12-month basis. However, EPA can negotiate the project period with each applicant based on project requirements. The project period for AWPPGs should be no more than four years, and there is no guarantee that future money beyond the first year of funding will be available. For grants and cooperative agreements that have been approved for multi-year project periods, the second, third, or fourth year of funding will not be competitive with the proposals submitted to future AWPPG RFPs, and the funding for those multi-year project period grants or cooperative agreements is not included in the funding estimates listed in this RFP.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Under CWA Section 104(b)(3), the following entities are eligible to receive grants: States and local governments, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, territories and

possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, interstate associations or intertribal consortia, public or private nonprofit, nongovernmental institutions and individuals.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No cost share or match is required, however, projects with matching funding, in-kind services or other support, will be favored; 10% of the ranking factor will be based on partnerships and matching support (see Section V.A of this RFP). Matching funds are considered grant funds and are included in the total award amount and should be used for the reasonable and necessary expenses of carrying out the work plan. Any restrictions on the use of grant funds (examples of restrictions are outlined in Section IV.E of this RFP) also apply to the use of matching funds.

C. Other

Applicants must submit eligible activities under section 104(b)(3) authority (see Section II.B of this RFP) and proposals must be no more than 6 pages and address the 8 components described in Section V.A.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

For response to this RFP, use of agency grant application forms is not necessary; the format of the proposal is given in Section V.A of this RFP. This RFP can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html>.

B. Content of Application Submission

AWPPG proposals from eligible applicants will be reviewed through EPA Headquarters. Only applications following the required format will be accepted for review. Interested applicants must submit a proposal of no more than six pages including all eight components described below. The six pages should include a cover sheet (one page), abstract (one page), and work plan (limited to four pages). The entire document must be double-spaced and have margins of no less than 1-inch. The proposals must be

submitted in their entirety in electronic form to awppg@epa.gov. All subject headings of the email submissions must state the program of application (Watershed or Nonpoint Source). The submissions may only be in Word, WordPerfect, or Adobe Acrobat format. In the event of difficulty, please see Section VII of this RFP for contact information. Hard copy proposals are unnecessary and will be discarded. All plans that will be accepted for review must include the following eight components.

1. *Cover Sheet*. The cover sheet must include only all of the following information in this specific order:

Name of applicant organization:

Response to Announcement Number 2005-1

Date of submission:

Name of applicant contact person:

Mailing Address:

Telephone number:

Email:

Amount Requested: \$

Application for Funds from (choose one) the Watershed Program or the Nonpoint Source Program

Response to Program Priority Number ____

2. *Abstract*. A summary of key objectives and final products, in 150 words or less.

3. *Workplan Description*. The narrative description of the workplan components is limited to a total of four pages, and components 4-8 must be addressed in those four pages. The workplan should include a description of project tasks in direct response to the priorities listed in sections V.A.1 and V.A.2.

4. *Time-line*. A proposal requesting funding for one year should include a timeframe no longer than 12 months. If the proposal is for a multi-year agreement, the timeline for the entire period of application, broken into 12-month increments must be included.

5. *Budget and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component*. The following Table with budget breakdown must be filled, including any matching funds, for each year that funding is requested.

| Object Class Categories | Federal | Non-Federal | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------|
| a. Personnel | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| b. Fringe Benefits | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| c. Travel | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| d. Equipment | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| e. Supplies | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| f. Contractual | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| g. Construction | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| h. Other | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| i. Total Direct Charges (sum of a-h) | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| j. Indirect Charges | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| k. TOTALS (sum of i and j) | \$ | \$ | \$ |

6. *Reporting schedule.* EPA requires quarterly reports by all grantees. Please identify here how those reports will be submitted to EPA.

7. *Description of applicant credentials.* Applicants should describe their programmatic and technical capabilities and experience in conducting the activities proposed.

8. *Contact information.* Contact information for the Grant Project Lead Manager, and Account Manager (funding coordinator).

C. Submission Dates and Times

The deadline for EPA receipt of proposals in electronic form to awppg@epa.gov is 11:59 p.m. on February 16, 2005. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered. The applicant will receive a notice of receipt from awppg@epa.gov.

D. Intergovernmental Review

The funds associated with this announcement require Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 (<http://www.cfda.gov/public/eo12372.htm/>) “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs” compliance. E.O. 12372 structures the federal government’s system of consultation with states and local governments on grant decisions, other forms of financial assistance, and direct development. Under E.O. 12372, states, in consultation

with their local governments, design their own review process and select the federal financial assistance and direct development activities they wish to review. If selected for funding, the recipient of the federal assistance agreement will be required to send a copy of their application and proposal to the appropriate State Clearinghouse Office for an intergovernmental review, if applicable (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>).

E. Funding Restrictions

Based on experience gained from previous years and policy and regulation, we offer the following comments/restrictions on funding eligibility.

- This grant program cannot fund land acquisition or purchase of easements. However, this program may support research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and study efforts directed at identifying areas for acquisition, which are intended to help address water pollution problems.
- While contractual efforts can be a part of these grants, each recipient must be significantly involved in the administration of the grant. EPA recommends that recipients use no more than 50% of the grant funds to contract with non-governmental entities. However, if the applicant wants to exceed this limit, the applicant may submit a written justification for greater involvement by non-governmental contractors. EPA will evaluate the need for greater contractual participation and may approve the request if they agree that there is adequate justification to exceed the 50% limit. For the purposes of this requirement, EPA will not consider work performed under a contract with other State, Tribal, or Local Government agencies, interstate associations, and intertribal consortia as a prohibition to this requirement. If another State, Tribal, or Local Government agency, interstate agency, or intertribal consortia is doing the contractual work, this should be clearly indicated in the grant application.
- Grant funds cannot be used to fund an honorarium under this program.
- Any fieldwork or research-type activities are limited to activities that have a direct, demonstrated link to program development or refinement included in the application.

- Purchase/lease of vehicles (including boats, motor homes) and office furniture is not eligible for funding under this program.
- Recipients should not anticipate additional funding beyond the initial award of funds for a specific project. Eligible applicants should request the entire amount of money needed to complete the project in the original grant application. Each grant should produce a final, discrete product. Funding and project periods can be for more than one year.

V. Application Review Information

A. Criteria

Each of the proposals will be ranked according to the following criteria (followed by relative review weight):

- The proposal adheres to the scope of this RFP, responds directly to one of the program priorities (listed in V.A.1. or V.A.2.) and is clearly written, (35%);
- There is a high probability for positive environmental results in the short- and long-term (20%);
- The watershed/project area is recognized as a state-wide priority by other federal, state and local agencies having authority and responsibilities pursuant to the Clean Water Act, and documentation of such priority and other on-going efforts that will leverage the success of your project is provided (15%);
- The proposal shows transferability of results and/or methods to other State, Tribe, or Local Government, or other watershed groups (15%);
- The applicant has planned for significant financial and personnel contribution with sufficient organizational experience (e.g, staff expertise/qualifications and knowledge, resources, and facilities); incorporates a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit partnerships; and matching funds are provided (10%);
- For applicants who have received prior funds from EPA previous projects have had successful outcomes (5%).

1. Watershed Program

Award Applicants to the Watershed Grant Program should include in the work plan information to support the following two areas that fall under the mission of this program. Please contact Tim Icke with specific questions on these program priorities (contact information in Section VII.).

a. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Technical Conference

Provide support for the delivery of a national conference on TMDL technical, scientific and programmatic issues covering various elements of the TMDL program, including water quality assessment, modeling, water quality standards, nonpoint source loading, wet weather, and other pollutant specific TMDL developmental issues. This conference will provide attendees (primarily State, local, regional and tribal officials) with information, materials and technical information to more effectively develop TMDLs and to better plan for program implementation activities. This conference should consist of various training sessions, pre-conference workshops and opportunities for information and technology transfer, including post conference proceedings and delivery of web-based electronic materials. The conference should be located in or near a major U.S. city accessible to transportation.

b. Advancing the TMDL Program Nationally

Potential activities should be innovative, nationally applicable projects, tools, strategies designed to increase the pace at which TMDLs are completed either through technical advances or institutional improvements. One type of technical advance would be computer simulation models that would provide equivalent levels of precision and accuracy in loading estimates while requiring lesser amounts of input data. Such models might involve mechanistic and/or empirical components. Another possible means of enhancing cost-effectiveness of TMDL generation would be finding ways to employ existing models in a way that reduces the amount of data inputs without proportional decreases in the reliability of outputs. Advances in the utility of fairly simple spreadsheet approaches to TMDL-type analyses could also be of benefit to the national program. EPA

requests proposals for projects aimed at development and testing of such efficiency-enhancing tools and strategies.

An additional key area for expansion and improvement of institutional capabilities lies in the area of third-party TMDLs, i.e., reliance on institutions such as local governments, planning agencies, universities, private water utilities and other private concerns, and local watershed partnerships etc. to carry out some of the activities involved in the development of TMDLs. EPA seeks proposals for programs aimed at increasing the involvement of third parties in the TMDL development process. Such programs would likely include systems for enhancing the understanding of relevant Clean Water Act (CWA) programs and of technical skills relevant to carrying out components of TMDLs. Eligible programs must aspire to achieving such enhancements in large numbers of organizations and individuals, on a national, or at least a multi-state regional, scale. Applicants having not only necessary knowledge and skills, but also with existing linkages to networks of groups and persons with a likely interest in developing third party TMDLs will be given preference.

c. TMDL Technical Support

Develop a technical assistance approach for providing on-site TMDL support. Project team will serve as point of contact for States and Tribes seeking technical assistance and, in turn, will promote information transfer and sharing of successes with other States/Tribes. This project involves highly technical TMDL developmental consultations on specific pollutant categories for both point and nonpoint sources. In addition, the technical team will be asked frequently to provide more general training on TMDL program components involving monitoring, data management, boundary issues, scale, Tribal considerations, and public involvement.

2. Nonpoint Source Program

Award Applicants to the Nonpoint Source Grant Program should include in the work plan information to support one or more of the following eight areas that fall under the mission of this program. Please contact Katie Flahive with specific questions on these program priorities (contact information in Section VII.).

a. Watershed Planning: Tools and Web-Based Decision Support Systems

EPA's watershed management partners (states, tribes, local governments and watershed organizations) frequently ask for technical guidance on appropriate landscape analysis, and water quality assessment tools (e.g. models), databases, and monitoring techniques for developing and implementing watershed plans that address nonpoint sources of pollution (NPS). EPA is soliciting proposals for the refinement of such tools and for local, state, and regional computerized decision support systems which provide interaction with and between these tools in an integrated way.

The EPA NPS Control Branch issued guidelines in 2003 that require more quantitative watershed plans in states that fund water quality restoration with Clean Water Act, Section 319 funds. These guidelines are available on the web (www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html). In particular, tools for assessing water quality, such as data analysis tools, digital mapping, and models, need to be compatible with available databases. Similarly landscape assessment tools should work efficiently with water quality, habitat, and other databases to help make land treatment decisions at the small watershed scale. EPA is interested working with nonprofits, universities, and government agencies that help take proven technical tools for watershed planning and upgrade or link them in order to improve their efficiency, applicability, and usability for watershed managers.

b. Provide a National Conference on NPS Education and Outreach

Conduct a national conference to publicize successful nonpoint source (NPS) and stormwater management outreach efforts that builds on the three previous NPS Information and Education Programs conferences. (See <http://www.epa.gov/nps/proceedings.html> for more information on the most recent conference in this series.) In the workplan for the conference, applicants should demonstrate broad-based knowledge and understanding of NPS and stormwater management issues confronting local, regional, state, and federal governments; environmental advocacy organizations; research and academic communities; and the general public. Applicants should also demonstrate a detailed understanding of past,

current, and emerging public information and education programs related to NPS and stormwater management issues, especially concerning outcome-based approaches and evaluation tools. Proposals should demonstrate an ability to coordinate and execute all aspects of a highly successful national water resources management/public information/education conference including program development, planning committee coordination, speaker solicitation and coordination, conference publicity, preparation of all related written materials, conference logistics coordination and execution, and follow-up conference evaluation and documentation. Applicants should propose a conference format that highlights an ability to procure affordable and convenient conference facilities, meeting arrangements, and overnight guest accommodations.

c. Support Watershed Education in Schools

Expand the reach of high-caliber, enduring watershed education (including lessons on nonpoint source pollution) in the K-12 schooling environment. The following specific objectives may be combined into a single grant award or divided into separate grants:

- Develop or expand support services to follow through with teachers who have undergone watershed-based education training that will increase the likelihood of delivering watershed education over multiple years;
- Develop a tool to assess how watershed education materials and teaching strategies affect students' standardized test scores. This assessment tool should be usable for a range of disciplines including science, math, language arts, and social studies;
- Add inquiry-based activities into an established national watershed educational curriculum;
- Align popular national watershed education programs to national learning standards;
- Develop or expand an incentive system for teachers to be trained in delivering watershed-based education;
- Improve and expand the marketing of established watershed education.

d. Promote Adoption of Vanguard Communities Outreach Initiative

Promote the integration of macro-scale Nonpoint Source (NPS) awareness campaigns (e.g. mass media broadcasts) and micro-scale NPS behavior change campaigns (neighbor-to-neighbor social marketing) either nationwide or at least three key markets. More information on the Vanguard Communities Outreach Initiative is available online at

<http://www.asiwpca.org/presentations/docs/AustinNPS2004/DonWayeOutreachPlan.pdf>.

Applicants should address how local neighborhood behavior change actions will overcome barriers to social diffusion of these actions and achieve measurable outcomes by focusing on the following characteristics:

- Perceived relative advantage of adopting new behaviors and actions;
- Compatibility of new behaviors and actions with existing community norms and values;
- Trialability, or the simplicity of adopting new behaviors and actions, including the ease by which they may be experimented with on a limited basis;
- Observability of results.

e. Low Impact Design Tool Development for Transportation Projects

Planning, scenario development and/or BMP selection tools, methods and outreach materials for highway design and reconstruction, e.g., Low Impact Development retrofits that can be used to protect or restore water resources. These tools will be used by local and state governments and transportation planners/engineers/project managers to assess the potential to incorporate LID techniques and to select appropriate techniques.

f. Low Impact Development Workshops for Residential Developments

Conduct three or four Low Impact Development (LID) workshops to promote the adoption of LID principles and practices in the design and construction of residential developments. These workshops will be held to educate developers, homebuilders, and local officials on the water quality benefits of low impact development technologies for new and existing developments. The location of the workshops will be determined by the

recipient based on factors such as regional, state, local interest and presence or lack of LID projects in the area.

g. Low Impact Development Demonstration at a Large Scale Retail Store

This project will provide funding for a site-level demonstration of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques at a big box facility (large retail store). It is anticipated that standardized templates and specifications which are described in existing corporate design manuals and design guidance or other similar materials will be used to select the management practices. The project may require that these designs be modified for the actual pilot site. This demonstration will be conducted to a) ascertain whether the LID practices can be easily incorporated into standard facility design plans and b) to determine and document the advantages and disadvantages of such an approach based on various factors, e.g., economic benefits, impacts on runoff control, water conservation, heat island reduction and aesthetics.

h. Reducing the Impacts of Buildings and Communities on Water Resources through Design

Convene a small (25 people), national, and multi-disciplinary group to develop criteria and principles that are intended to be used by architects, planners, engineers, public officials and developers as a tool to promote the design and construction of buildings and communities that protect water resources. Examples of factors to be considered in the development of the criteria and principles include: water use, reuse, conservation and harvesting, stormwater management, groundwater recharge, watershed protection and building/site location and design. Develop a report that summarizes the results of the meeting including the principles and criteria described above.

i. Regional Conference to Foster Better Water Quality through Better Government Collaboration on Working Lands

Conduct a regional conference to improve collaboration between the various agencies, partners and stakeholders at the Federal, State and Local levels who are involved in implementing programs for working lands so that such programs result in

improved water quality. In the work plan for the conference, the applicants should demonstrate broad-based knowledge of water quality issues including nonpoint source control, and agricultural and other natural resources issues confronting local, regional, state and Federal agencies; environmental and other stakeholder groups; research and academic communities; and the general public. Proposals should demonstrate an ability to coordinate and execute a successful regional conference including program development, planning committee coordination, speaker solicitation and coordination, conference publicity, preparation of related written materials, conference logistics coordination and execution, and follow-up documentation of conference on applicant's Web site. The conference should be located in or near a major U.S. city accessible to transportation.

j. Support for World Water Monitoring Day

Provide planning, support, and outreach for World Water Monitoring Day, an international educational event that encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to become involved in their local watersheds. More information on World Water Monitoring Day is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer/monitoringmonth.html>.

Applicants should address the following aspects of the event: development and distribution of low-cost monitoring equipment; development and distribution of publicity about water quality monitoring and World Water Monitoring Day; development and distribution of educational materials for water quality educators and schools about water resources, water quality and monitoring; development of Web resources for information exchange and management of data collected during the event; and coordination of activities with U.S. and international partner organizations, volunteer water monitoring organizations, teachers and educational organizations (e.g., such as the National Science Teachers Association), and other interested participants. Applicants should demonstrate a proven ability to organize national or international-scale events and should document their knowledge and experience in water quality monitoring, website development, partnership-building, and development and distribution of educational materials.

B. Review and Selection Process

EPA Headquarters staff will review each proposal to ensure that all required information is included. A team of two or more staff will then evaluate and rank the remaining proposals based on the review criteria described in Section V.A.

VI. Award Administration and Information

A. Award Notices

All applicants will be notified by the appropriate EPA Headquarters on whether or not the proposal has been selected for funding. The notification is not an authorization to begin performance. A notice signed by the Grants Administration Division is the authorizing document to the applicant to begin performance.

If selected for funding, EPA will request a full proposal from the applicant. For final proposals, the standard application forms will be furnished by the EPA. These are required for proposals by OMB Circular No. A-102 and A-110. EPA requires final proposals to be made on Standard Form 424. Requests for full proposal kits can be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, Grants Administration Division, 3903R, Washington, DC 20460. Additional information on full proposals can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/how_to_apply.htm/. Also for final proposals, grant applicants will be required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D & B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Organizations can receive a DUNS number in one day, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by visiting <http://www.dnb.com/>.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The general award and administration process for AWPPGs are governed by regulations at 40 CFR part 30 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 (States, Tribes, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia and local governments). Disputes will be resolved pursuant to the process described in 40 CFR 30.63 and Part 31, subpart F.

Certain quality assurance and/or quality control (QA/QC) and peer review requirements are applicable to the collection of environmental data. Applicants should

allow sufficient time and resources for this process in their proposed projects.

Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or condition; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data also include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and obtained from other sources such as data bases or published literature.

Recipients will be required to institute standardized reporting requirements into their workplan and include such costs in their budgets. All environmental data will be required to be entered into the Agency's Storage and Retrieval (STORET) data system. STORET is a repository for water quality, biological, and other physical data used by State environmental agencies, EPA and other Federal agencies, universities, private citizens, and many other organizations. Training on how to use STORET will be provided at the annual conference. Watershed organizations may also want to contact their State agency responsible for entering data into the system. More information about STORET can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/STORET>.

Regulations pertaining to QA/QC requirements can be found in 40 CFR Parts 30.54 and 31.45. Additional guidance can be found at http://www.epa.gov/quality/qa_docs.html#noeparqt.

C. Reporting

Project monitoring and reporting requirements can be found in 40 CFR 30.50-30.54, 40 CFR 31.40-31.45 and 40 CFR 40.160. In general, grantees are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations and activities supported by the grant to assure compliance with applicable Federal requirements, and for ensuring that established milestones and performance goals are being achieved. Performance reports and financial reports must be submitted quarterly and are due 30 days after the reporting period. The final report is due 90 days after the grant has expired.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information regarding this RFP, email awppg@epa.gov or for:

- Watershed Program priorities, please contact Tim Icke, 202-566-1211
- Nonpoint Source Program priorities, please contact Katie Flahive, 202-566-1206